

Senate Energy & Telecomm. Comm.
Exhibit No. 7
Date 3/3/2011
Bill No. HB 198

982 24 th In NE
Power, MT 59468
March 2, 2011

Alan Olson, Chairman
Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT, 59601

Dear Sir:

I am very concerned about the proposed legislation that would change the eminent domain laws in the State of Montana. As I understand it, the new law would weaken or eliminate any private property owners' right to refuse any private entity access to private land.

For over 150 years, the private ownership of land and property has been upheld. The only times the private property was taken without the owner's consent was when every effort was made to negotiate a reasonable settlement between opposing parties to no avail. To take property ownership rights away from anyone simply to facilitate a power transmission line is shortsighted and dangerous.

I urge you to reconsider the effects of this or similar legislation on the long term future of Montana.

Sincerely,

Myron A. Wheeler

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Wilma M. Wheeler

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